IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A data reproduction device for reproducing compressed multimedia data, including audio data which are MPEG audio data and also converting reproduction speed without decoding compressed audio data, comprising:

an extraction unit extracting a frame, which is unit data of the audio data;

a setting unit setting a reproduction speed of the audio data;

~~a speed conversion unit speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame prior to decoding of the audio data;~~

a scale factor extraction unit extracting a scale factor included in the frame;

a calculation unit calculating an evaluation function from the extracted scale factor, to thereby provide a calculation result;

~~a control unit comparing a calculation result of the calculation unit with a prescribed threshold value and controlling not to transmit a corresponding frame to said speed conversion unit for speed converting if the calculation result is smaller than the threshold value;~~

a speed conversion unit comparing the calculation result of the calculation unit with a prescribed threshold value, judging to be a sound section frame if the calculation result is larger than the threshold value and, if a sound section frame is judged, speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame;

a decoding unit decoding the speed converted frame; and

a reproduction unit reproducing audible sound represented by the audio data from the decoded frame.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The data reproduction device according to claim 2, wherein said calculation unit calculates ~~an~~ the evaluation function based on a plurality of scale factors included in the frame.

6. (previously presented) The data reproduction device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a scale factor conversion unit generating a scale factor conversion coefficient for compensating for a discontinuous fluctuation of an acoustic pressure caused in a joint between frames, calculating the scale factor and scale factor conversion coefficient and inputting them as data to be decoded to said decoding unit if a plurality of scale factors included in the frame are reproduced by said reproduction unit.

7. (original) The data reproduction device according to claim 2, which receives multimedia data, including both video data and audio data, further comprising:

a separation unit breaking down the multimedia data into both video data and audio data;

a decoding unit decoding the video data; and

a video reproduction unit reproducing the video data.

8. (previously presented) The data reproduction device according to claim 7, wherein each piece of the video data and audio data is structured as MPEG data.

9. (currently amended) A method for reproducing multimedia data, including audio data which is MPEG audio data and converting a reproduction speed without decoding compressed audio data, comprising:

~~(a)~~extracting a frame, which is unit data of the audio data;

~~(b)~~setting the reproduction speed of the audio data;

~~(c)thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame based on the reproduction speed set in step (b) prior to decoding of the audio data;~~

~~(f)~~extracting a scale factor included in the frame;

~~(g)~~calculating an evaluation function from the extracted scale factor, to thereby provide a calculation result;

~~(h)comparing a calculation result in step (f) with a prescribed threshold value and controlling not to execute step (c) for a corresponding frame if the calculation result is smaller than the threshold value;~~

comparing the calculation result with a prescribed threshold value, judging to be a sound section frame if the calculation result is larger than the threshold value and, if a sound section frame is judged, speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame;

~~(d)~~decoding the speed converted frame ~~of the audio data received after step (c)~~; and

~~(e)~~reproducing audible sound represented by the audio data from the decoded frame.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The ~~data reproduction~~ method according to claim 9, wherein in said calculating~~step (g)~~, the evaluation function is calculated from a plurality of scale factors included in the frame.

13. (currently amended) The ~~data reproduction~~ method according to claim 9, further comprising

~~(i)~~generating a scale factor conversion coefficient for compensating for a discontinuous fluctuation of an acoustic pressure caused at a joint between frames and executing ~~step (d)~~said decoding based on a value obtained by multiplying the scale factor by the scale factor conversion coefficient if a plurality of scale factors included in the frame are reproduced ~~in step (d)~~.

14. (currently amended) The ~~data reproduction~~ method for processing multimedia data, including both video data and audio data, according to claim 9, further comprising:

~~(i)~~separating video data from audio data;

~~(j)~~decoding the video data; and

~~(k)~~reproducing the video data.

15. (currently amended) The ~~data reproduction~~ method according to claim 14, wherein each of the video data and audio data is structured as MPEG data.

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer to reproduce multimedia data, including audio data which are MPEG audio data by converting reproduction speed of compressed audio data without decoding the data, said process comprising:

~~(a)~~extracting a frame, which is a data unit of the audio data;

~~(b)~~setting reproduction speed of the audio data;

~~(c)thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame based on the reproduction speed set in step (b) prior to decoding of the audio data;~~

~~(f)~~extracting a scale factor included in the frame;

~~(g)~~calculating an evaluation function from the extracted scale factor to thereby provide a calculation result;

~~(h)comparing a calculation result in step (f) with a prescribed threshold value and controlling not to execute step (c) for a corresponding frame if the calculation result is smaller than the threshold value;~~

comparing the calculation result with a prescribed threshold value, judging to be a sound section frame if the calculation result is larger than the threshold value and, if a sound section frame is judged, speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame;

~~(d)~~decoding the speed converted frame ~~of the audio data received after step (c)~~; and

(e)reproducing audio sound represented by the audio data from the decoded frame.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The storage medium according to claim 16, wherein in ~~step (g)~~said calculating, the evaluation function is calculated from a plurality of scale factors included in the frame.

20. (currently amended) The storage medium according to claim 16, further comprising

~~(g)~~ generating a scale factor conversion coefficient for compensating for a discontinuous fluctuation of an acoustic pressure caused at a joint between frames and executing ~~step (d)~~said decoding based on a value obtained by multiplying the scale factor by the scale factor conversion coefficient if a plurality of scale factors included in the frame are reproduced ~~in step (d)~~.

21. (currently amended) The storage medium for processing multimedia data, including both video and audio data, according to claim 16, further comprising:

~~(i)~~separating video data from audio data;

~~(j)~~decoding the video data; and

~~(k)~~reproducing the video data.

22. (original) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein each of the video data and audio data is structured as MPEG data.